

Titel: BREV TIL: Roman Jakobson FRA: Louis Hjelmslev (1946-01-02)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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Roman Jakobson, 6

AIR MAIL

2nd January, 1946.

Professor dr. Roman Jakobson,
Columbia University,
Dept. of Comparative Linguistics,
New York 27, N.Y.

Dear Roman,

Thank you for your letter of 15 Decbr., which reached me on New Year's Eve. The fact is that your first letter did reach me all right, and that I wrote an air mail letter to you on September 26. I am sorry to learn that the letter has been lost.

I shall soon be sending you the publications I have reserved for you; my chief publications during the war period have been a paper 'Langue et parole' in the Cahiers Saussure II, and a Danish version of my Prolegomena to Glossematics (title: 'Omkring sprogtærens grundlæggelse', in Festskrift of our University Novbr. 43); a French version is forthcoming. Uldall and his wife were here in September and October; they have spent most of their time in Baghdad during the war. They are in London by now, and they are probably leaving in a fortnight for Buenos Aires, where Uldall is taking over a job for the British Council for some years. I am not very fond of this new separation, ~~but~~ ~~facilitates~~ ~~our~~ collaboration. We had not very much time left in Copenhagen to compare notes, but fortunately we found that we had been working on the same lines, so that our common work can go on regularly, although with a very considerable delay. We hope the 'Outline of Glossematics' can be published in the year to come. The Uldall's asked me to give their love to you both, which I actually did in my last letter, which was written during their stay here (by the way, I am going to ask Uldall if that letter of mine to you is still in his pocket; he might have promised to post it for me, and he was extremely busy all the time seeing his family and digging out things he had left here in a great hurry in various places at the outbreak of the war).

I have given notice about your first letter in a meeting of our Linguistic Circle, and I can give you the greetings of several of our members. We have been glad to be informed about your Linguistic Circle and about 'Word'. We are very grateful for the invitation to collaborate, and we shall certainly not fail to do so. As for me, I do not know when I can send you anything of the kind. I have been extremely busy this autumn. Seareste from Esthonia is working in Copenhagen for some time and has been living with us, and of course Uldall's visit meant that I had to put off many of my dates; furthermore I have been a member of the jury for the vacant chair of Romance languages and literatures, which meant a large amount of work; the Swede Hasselrot has been appointed. A publication 'Danish Scientific Activities During the Second World War' is being published shortly; I have written there about Linguistics. You might perhaps have a look at that before deciding